

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims (Official Action at page 3).

By the above amendments, claims 5 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 5 and 8, respectively. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended for readability purposes by replacing the phrase "may be" with "is optionally." Claim 7 has further been amended for clarification purposes to recite that L¹ represents -O-C(=O)-*, wherein * represents the location at which L⁴ is bonded. Support for such amendment can be found in the instant specification at least at pages 13-16.

In the Official Action, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Document No. 0 847 228 (*EP '228*). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,711,567 (*Innes*).

Without addressing the propriety of the comments set forth in the Official Action in connection with the above rejections, it is noted that such rejections are moot in light of the above amendment of independent claim 7, in which the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated therein. As discussed above, the Patent Office has indicated that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *EP* '228. Without addressing the propriety of the Examiner's comments in connection with this rejection, it is noted that such rejection is moot in light of the above amendment of independent claim 1, in which the subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated therein. As discussed above, the Patent Office has indicated that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the above rejection is respectfully requested.

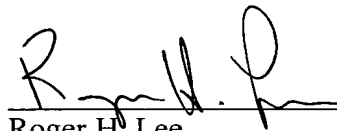
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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